

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to use of the phrase "to be capable of" in independent claim 1 and dependent claim 7. The Examiner indicated that claims 1-8 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

The Examiner acknowledged receipt of a certified copy of applicants' corresponding Japanese priority application, thereby perfecting the foreign priority claim.

No objection was made to the drawings, and it is applicants' understanding that the drawings have been accepted by the Examiner.

Applicants and applicants' attorney appreciate the Examiner pointing out an indefinite phrase in claims 1 and 7 and for indicating that claims 1-8 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the indefiniteness.

In accordance with this response, claims 1-8 have been rewritten in amended form to improve the wording, cure informalities and overcome the indefiniteness rejection of claims 1 and 7. The specification has been revised in editorial respects to improve the wording and to facilitate a reading of the specification.

With regard to the indefiniteness rejection, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "vanes slidable in respective ones of the vane grooves for slidably advancing and retracting during rotation of the rotor." Claim 7 has been amended to recite "an elastic member for imparting an elastic force to the valve element...". As amended, the claims recite positive limitations and overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

Claims 1-8 have also been amended in formal respects to improve the wording and better conform the claims to U.S. practice. In the case of claims 2 and 3, these have been amended to refer to "rotation of the rotor" rather than "rotation of the compressor main body" since the former rather than the latter undergoes rotation.

As indicated by the Examiner, the prior art does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention. As the sole ground of rejection has been overcome, the application is now believed to be in allowable form.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage
of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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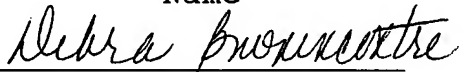
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JUNE 20, 2005

Date